280th Base Support Battalion
Army Community Service Center Schweinfurt, Germany

Family Advocacy Program

Victim Advocacy Program

Clara L. Schüler, FAPM

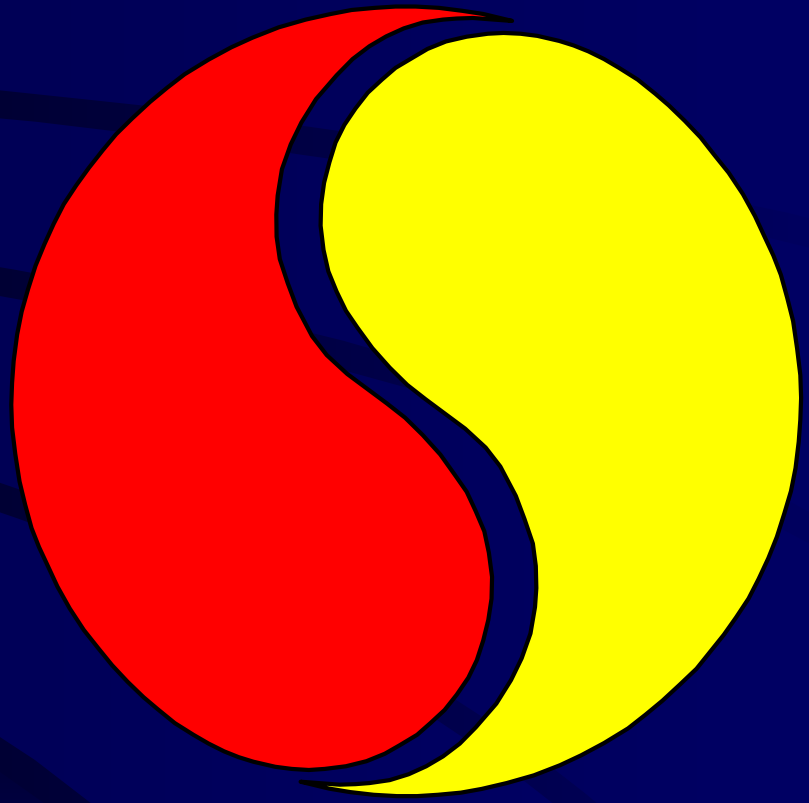
PROGRAM AUTHORITY

- **Army Regulation 608-18, Sep 95, Army Family Advocacy Program**
- **Army Regulation 608-1, Oct 00, Army Community Service Center**
- **Department of Defense Instruction 6400.1, Family Advocacy Program, 1992**
- **Department of Defense Instruction 6400.2, Child and Spouse Abuse Report, 1987**
- **Department of Defense Directive 1030.1, Victim and Witness Assistance, 1984**
- **Department of Defense Instruction 1342.12, Transitional Compensation for Abused Dependents, 1995**

Family Advocacy Program Components

- **Prevention and Education:**
- **ACS - FAPM**

- **Treatment and Intervention:**
- **Social Work Service**



Victim Advocacy TEAM!!

- **JAG Attorney**
- **Social Work Service**
- **ACSC**
- **Community**

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The benefits of teamwork:

- **Stronger awareness of victim services for soldiers and families**
- **Community becomes MORE capable of responding to victims' needs**
- **Better connections between appropriate installation support services**

How do we define.. *Victim*

Legal Avenues

Victim – suffered direct physical or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime committed in violation of UCMJ

Family Advocacy

***Any allegation*….of any form of spouse abuse should result in a referral to the Victim Advocacy Program**

Spouse Abuse Victim Advocacy Program Objectives

- Assisting victims to obtain needed services
- Acting on behalf of the victim, advocating for the victim's wishes or needs
- Providing education to the entire community concerning the duties and roles of the victim advocate

Victim Advocacy Program

- Supporting victims through the investigative and case review process….from initial case awareness until case is closed

Victim Advocacy Program Goals

- **Provide liaison services to ensure victim is offered safety, long term protection, support and informed of their rights in a timely manner**

- **Improve feeling of being "supported" by introducing victim to agency representatives who will provide individual assistance**

Referral of Victims

- MEDCOM PAM 608-1, change 6, 1 Apr 02
- Initial assessment/safety plan completed by SWS
- Victim Advocate Referral Form is MEDCOM FORM 733 (MCHO) FEB 02
- Form completed by SWS case manager and provided to Victim Advocate on a daily basis

Assessing Victim Needs

- **Victim Advocate discusses referral directly with case manager to ascertain recommended assistance to identified victim**

- **i.e., contact with Attorney, Chain of Command of sponsor, Transportation Office, Finance, etc.**

Providing Victim Assistance

- **Victim Advocate then initiates contact with victim telephonically to brief about program and available services**

- **If victim accepts services, an appointment is scheduled to meet with victim**

Victim Needs

Victim Advocate will discuss needs initially identified by case manager

Advocate provides POC for identified needs; agency specific

Victim will also identify their own specific needs

Advocate may accompany victim and introduce to agency POC

Program Awareness

- **Spouse abuse victim advocates must receive support from the entire military community**
- **Destroying the “myth” that only one side of the situation will be heard…the integrity and autonomy of the victim must always be supported**
- **Offenders MUST be held accountable for their actions**

Community Responses

- Increase awareness that violence against a spouse is contrary to the values and standards of personal excellence of the U. S. Army
- Spouse abuse is a community issue, which requires a consistent and coordinated community response.

Program Marketing

- SWS Case Managers
- Unit Level Training Program
- Command Education Program
- Law Enforcement Info Packets
- Civilian Awareness Program
- Weekly Community Info Booths
- Banners, fliers, tri-fold brochures
- Weekly In-processing Briefings
- Newspaper Articles

Schweinfurt Program
(Oversight maintained by FAPM)

- **Contracted Victim Advocacy Program Coordinator**
- **Team of Volunteer Victim Advocates attend 40 hours Intro to Victim Assistance**
- **Monthly follow-up training scheduled for 3 hours per month**

Invited community speakers to develop skills

- **Certificate after 6 months of participation**
- **Monthly evaluation of volunteer to determine readiness for assignment as advocate**

Volunteer Victim Advocates

ACSC Volunteers

- Volunteer Victim Advocates serve as ACSC volunteers
- Eligible for child care while attending training and/or serving in volunteer capacity
- Recognized monthly, quarterly and annually for volunteer service
- Eligible for all volunteer awards

Volunteer Statistics

- Conducted 3 classes:
- Nov 2001 (14)
- Apr 2002 (9)
- Sep 2002 (10)
- Volunteers Still Active:
- Nov 2001 (6)
- Apr 2002 (5)
- Sep 2002 (8)

- 6 Health Clinic Nurses
- 7 OU Masters in Human Relations
- 2 Bachelors in Criminal Justice
- 1 Secondary Education
- 5 Associate Degrees
- 12 High School Graduates

Volunteers

Volunteer Advocates Projects

- Research materials used to update community wide briefings
- Set up information awareness booths and interact with community members
- Assist with numerous FAP events and campaigns:
  - Kinderfest
  - DV Month
  - Military Spouse Recognition Day
  - Military Family Month

Transitional Compensation

- **Schweinfurt victims have received Transitional Compensation benefits briefings through 1st Infantry Division Staff Judge Advocate Office… P.O.C. Ms. Kathy Hutter….in Wuerzburg due to deployment and mission requirements of previous (Active Duty) Victim-Witness Liaisons**

****Ms. Hutter will provide**

Transitional Compensation briefing

Conclusion/Questions

- **ACS-FAPM - Prevention**
- **Clara Schueler**
- **354-7057/0160-584-5693**

- **VA/TC Coordinator Contractor**
- **Nancy Lembke**
- **354-6751**

- **SWS - Treatment**
- **Lysbeth Spence**
- **354-6276**